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(Mary) Sharon Rogone (AKA LEE)  
140430 Choco Rd.  
Apple Valley CA 92307

**MAILED**  
**APR 23 2012**  
**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,210,320  
Issued: April 3, 2001  
Application No.: 09/053,346  
Filing Date: April 1, 1998  
Attorney Docket No.

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: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
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This is a request for information in response to the communication filed March 26, 2012.

Petitioner is allowed a non-extendable period for reply of **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this communication to provide a response. The response should be titled, "Response to Request for Information." If no response is provided within the period set forth, a decision will be made solely on the merits as set forth in previous filings. No additional fees are due.

The patent issued April 3, 2001. The 3.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from April 3, 2004, through October 3, 2004, or with a surcharge, as authorized by 37 CFR 1.20(h), during the period from October 4, 2004, to April 3, 2005. Petitioner did not do so. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on April 3, 2005. It is noted that the period for paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee has also passed.

Petitioner is required to address the following points:

- It is noted the petitioner states that Mrs. Rogone was the person designated to "take care of the patent maintenance." Yet, petitioner also states that the duties of the remaining staff sometimes overlapped because patentees' business operation was small. It is further noted that petitioner maintains that the hardships of Mrs. Rogone and the other staff members contributed in some way to the failure to pay the 3.5-year and 7.5-year maintenance fees. Given the aforementioned, it is requested that petitioner provide statements from the members of the staff that were employed during the relevant period wherein they elaborate on their understanding of the business routine for tracking and paying the maintenance fees. The statements offered in the filing made August 26, 2011, are noted, but speak generally of the hardships that befell Small Beginnings. The statements to be filed should focus only on the staff members understanding of the business routine for tracking and paying the maintenance fees and their involvement in that process, if any.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patent  
Mail Stop Petitions  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1460

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300  
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

**/Kenya A. McLaughlin/**

Kenya A. McLaughlin  
Petition Attorney  
Office of Petitions

cc:  
M. Sharon Rogone  
Small Beginnings, Inc.  
17229 #E7 Lemon Street  
Hesperia, CA 92345